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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An image generating apparatus, comprising:

display image generating means for generating display image data to be displayed on a screen based on information on at least one three-dimensional object disposed in a three-dimensional space and information on a viewpoint position;

image area identification data storage means for storing image area identification data that, of said display image data, specifically identifies an image area corresponding to said three-dimensional object; and

image processing means for applying image defocusing processing at least locally to said display image data based on said image area identification data.

2. (original): An image generating apparatus, comprising:

display image generating means for generating display image data to be displayed on a screen based on information on at least one three-dimensional object disposed in a three-dimensional space and information on a viewpoint position;

elemental image generating means for generating elemental image data that is applied to a surface forming said three-dimensional object and that draws at least one elemental image in an image area corresponding to said surface forming said three-dimensional object;

synthesizing means for generating synthesized display image data to be displayed on said screen by synthesizing said generated elemental image data with the display image data generated based on said information on the three-dimensional object; and

image processing means for applying image defocusing processing at least locally to said synthesized display image data.

3. (original): The image generating apparatus according to claim 2, further including:

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storage means for storing original texture map image data to be applied to said surface forming said three-dimensional object, wherein

said display image generating means generates the display image data, when generating the display image data, by applying the original texture map image data stored in said storage means to the surface forming the three-dimensional object.

4. (original): The image generating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said original texture map image data includes synthesizing area identification information for identifying an area, on which image data different from the original texture image can be synthesized, and

said elemental image generating means determines a drawing position of the elemental image based on the synthesizing area identification information of said original texture map image data.

5. (currently amended): The image generating apparatus according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein

said elemental image data includes synthesizing area identification information that identifies an area, in which image data different from the elemental image can be synthesized,

said image processing means determines at least one portion, to which the image defocusing processing is applied, based on the synthesizing area identification information included in each of said elemental image data and said original texture map image data, and applies the image defocusing processing to said portion determined.

6. (currently amended): The image generating apparatus according to claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~, wherein

said elemental image data or said portion, to which image defocusing processing is applied, is changed with time.

7. An image generating method using a computer, comprising:

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a display image generating step for generating a display image to be displayed on a screen based on information on at least one three-dimensional object disposed in a three-dimensional space and information on a viewpoint position;

an image area identification data storage step for storing image area identification data that, of said display image, specifically identifies an image area corresponding to said three-dimensional object; and

an image processing step for applying image defocusing processing at least locally to said display image based on said image area identification data.

8. (original): A computer-readable medium for use in a computer and storing a program for executing:

a display image generating step for generating a display image to be displayed on a screen based on information on at least one three-dimensional object disposed in a three-dimensional space and information on a viewpoint position;

an image area identification data storage step for storing image area identification data that, of said display image, specifically identifies an image area corresponding to said three-dimensional object; and

an image processing step for applying image defocusing processing at least locally to said display image based on said image area identification data.

9. (original): Display image data to be generated in accordance with the image generating method as claimed in claim 7.

10 (new): The image generating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

said elemental image data includes synthesizing area identification information that identifies an area, in which image data different from the elemental image can be synthesized,

said image processing means determines at least one portion, to which the image defocusing processing is applied, based on the synthesizing area identification information

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included in each of said elemental image data and said original texture map image data, and applies the image defocusing processing to said portion determined.

11. (new): The image generating apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said elemental image data or said portion, to which image defocusing processing is applied, is changed with time.

12. (new): The image generating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said elemental image data or said portion, to which image defocusing processing is applied, is changed with time.

13. (new): The image generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said elemental image data or said portion, to which image defocusing processing is applied, is changed with time.